

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00842 222138Z

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CVIS, EGEN, ASEC, JM

SUBJECT: BRITISH-CANADIAN SECURITY CONCERNS RELATIVE TO CURRENT
POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SITUATION

1. DCM AND BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER GODDEN MET WITH
CANADIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER ROBINSON FEB 18 AT LATTER'S
REQUEST TO DISCUSS STAFF AND MISSION SECURITY IMPLICATIONS ARISING
FROM JAMAICA'S CURRENT POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SITUATION.
AS BACKGROUND TO DISCUSSION OF SECURITY PROBLEMS, BOTH
CANADIAN AND BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSED THE
VIEW THAT ECONOMIC CRISIS IS TAKING JAMAICA TO THE EDGE
OF CHAOS AND THAT DETERIORATION WILL BE GEOMETRIC. BOTH
HELD THE VIEW THERE IS NOW CONSIDERABLE DOUBT WHETHER
MANLEY IS EITHER LEADING OR CONTROLLING HIS OWN LEFT.
MOREOVER, BOTH HELD THE CONVICTION -- APPARENTLY SHARED
BY THEIR MISSIONS -- THAT THE LEFT IN
FACT WISHES TO PROLONG AND DEEPEN THE ECONOMIC CRISIS
AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE ITS POLITICAL GOAL OF DE-
STROYING THE MIDDLE CLASS AND CAPITALISM IN JAMAICA.
THEY AGREED THAT WHETHER OR NOT THIS PERCEPTION IS ACCURATE IS
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PAGE 02 KINGST 00842 222138Z

ALMOST BESIDE THE POINT. JAMAICA'S MIDDLE CLASS IS ACTING UPON THAT
PERCEPTION AS EVIDENCED BY THE FLOOD OF IMMIGRANT VISA AP-
PLICANTS NOT ONLY AT OUR MISSIONS BUT ALSO AT
OTHERS. (FOR EXAMPLE: AUSTRALIAN CHARGE TOLD DCM LAST
WEEK THAT HIS MISSION IS NOW RECEIVING FROM TWENTY
TO FORTY SERIOUS IMMIGRATION INQUIRIES DAILY IN RECENT
WEEKS. LAST YEAR THE LEVEL OF QUERIES WAS THREE OR FOUR

PER WEEK.)

2. TURNING TO SECURITY IMPLICATIONS, BOTH BRITISH AND CANADIANS ANTICIPATED FOOD SHORTAGES AND SHARPLY INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT. THIS, COUPLED WITH THE REHETORIC OF RACE AND CLASS POLITICS, SEEMS TO ASSURE A SHARP RISE IN VIOLENT CRIME -- INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR HOUSE BREAKINS -- IN THE COMING YEAR. BOTH ARE ACTING ON THIS ASSESSMENT. BRITISH ARE ADOPTING A HOUSING POLICY WHICH ENCOURAGES ALL STAFF REGARDLESS OF FAMILY SIZE OR REPRESENTATIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO MOVE INTO TOWN HOUSES OR APARTMENTS. CANADIANS ARE EXPENDING CONSIDERABLE SUMS OF MONEY TO IMPROVE SECURITY OF THEIR HOUSING AND ARE REQUESTING AUTHORITY FROM OTTAWA TO PLACE SECURITY GUARDS ON ALL STAFF HOUSING. (THIS EMBASSY ALREADY IS PLACING MOST OF ITS STAFF IN TOWN HOUSES AND APARTMENTS, HAS ARMED GUARDS ON AMBASSADOR AND DCM RESIDENCES, AND PROVIDES GUARDS TO DETACHED STAFF HOUSING WHENEVER THE HUSBAND IS ABSENT OVERNIGHT.)

3. NEITHER THE BRITISH NOR THE CANADIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONERS HAS ANY FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF THE JAMAICAN SECURITY FORCES TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY PROTECTION TO THEIR STAFF. NONE THE LESS, THEY BOTH INTEND TO REGISTER THEIR CONCERN AT A FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL IN THE GOJ IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

4. UNTIL NOW THIS EMBASSY AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE VIEWED VIOLENCE THREAT AS BEING MAINLY CRIMINAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KINGST 00842 222138Z

RATHER THAN POLITICALLY INSPIRED, PLANNED TERRORISM. ASKED WHETHER THEY SAW ANY INCREASE IN THE POTENTIAL FOR TERRORISM DIRECTED AT OUR MISSIONS, THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONERS SAID SUCH A THREAT IS NOW EMERGING AND THAT US EMBASSY OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE THE PRIMARY TARGET ALTHOUGH THE CANADIANS AND BRITISH COULD SUFFER THROUGH MISTAKEN IDENTITY OR POLITICAL AFFINITY. CANADIAN SURMISED THAT THE LAST THING THE POLITICAL LEFT IN JAMAICA WANTS IS AN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE US. IN PARTICULAR, IT WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN US ASSISTANCE. IT IS THEREFORE INCREASINGLY POSSIBLE THAT THERE COULD BE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON US MISSION OFFICES OR STAFF AS A MEANS OF SABOTAGING ANY PROGRESS TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE CAN SUBSCRIBE IN GENERAL TERMS TO THE ASSESSMENT AND CONCERNS OFFERED BY THE CANADIAN AND BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONERS, AT

THIS POINT IN TIME WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW THEIR
ASSESSMENT OF THE TERRORIST POTENTIAL AS OVERDRAWN.
NONETHELESS, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBTING THE LEVEL OF
CONCERN AND WORRY EVIDENCED BY THE CANADIANS IN PARTICULAR.
LATTER, BY ROBINSON'S OWN ADMISSION, HAVE BEEN RATHER
NAIVE UNTIL THE RECENT PAST ABOUT POLITICAL TRENDS
OVER THE PAST YEAR. COMMENTING ON CANADIAN ASSISTANCE
PACKAGE TO JAMAICA LATE LAST YEAR, HE SAID IT "HAD
NOT BOUGHT A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP FOR CANADA, BUT ONLY
A BIT OF TIME AND A FEW VOTES FOR MANLEY." IN OTHER
WORDS, CANADIANS CLEARLY ARE DISILLUSIONED, BITTER, AND
MAY TO SOME DEGREE BE OVER-REACTING TO RECENT EVENTS.
AS FOR THE BRITISH, THEY ARE MORE OR LESS RESIGNED TO
BEING UNABLE TO SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCE THE SITUATION,
BUT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INCOLVING
THEIR STAFF IN THE RECENT PAST, INCLUDING AN ATTEMPTED
RAPE. FOR OUR PART, MISSION'S SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE
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PAGE 04 KINGST 00842 222138Z

WILL REASSESS SITUATION IN LIGHT CANADIAN AND BRITISH
EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN.
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